



September 1, 2022

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs  
Attn: LaToya Edwards, Recreation and Conservation Programs Specialist  
Post Office Box 5690  
Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5690

RECEIVED  
SEP 07 2022  
COMMUNITY SERVICES

Dear Ms. Edwards,

Historic Blakeley State Park is excited to offer the enclosed application for potential funding through the Recreational Trails Program.

As you will see, the project meets a significant need for the park and connects two widely separated areas of historical interest—the improved portion of our Civil War battlefield and the new USCT Heritage Trail which educates visitors on the role of African-American soldiers in the fighting which took place on our grounds in 1865. The proposed trail will make these nationally-significant cultural heritage assets more easily available to a wide range of users including hikers, bikers, and horseback riders. In addition, it will allow for improved park safety by facilitating easier park personnel access between the two areas of our more than 2,000 acre park. As evidenced in the proposed budget, we plan to devote considerable staff time to its implementation if funded.

Attached to this application you will find letters of support from local and national political leaders, and evidence of the strong endorsement of the project by a variety of our user groups, as well as a number of maps and illustrations which we hope will help you understand the project and the area in which it would take place.

We look forward to answering any questions you may have about this important project and appreciate your consideration.

Respectfully,

Mike Bunn

Director, Historic Blakeley State Park

## Application Cover Sheet

Applicant's Name (Organization): Historic Blakeley State Park

Address: 34745 State Highway 225  
Spanish Fort  
AL ZIP+4: 36527-3198

County: Baldwin

FEI Number: 63-0990412

DUNS Number: 842186967

Unique Entity Identifier (UEI): TDC3M2K173Q9

Project Title: USCT Division Trail

Project Description: This new trail will connect publicly accessible portions of Historic  
Blakeley State Park's battlefield trail system with our new USCT Heritage  
Trail which allows guests access to trails running alongside original Civil  
War earthworks dug and used by one of the war's largest concentrations  
of African American soldiers—almost all of them former slaves.

Park Name, if applicable: Historic Blakeley State Park

Park (project location) Address: Connects 34745 State Hwy. 225, Spanish Fort, AL 36527 with 6955  
Cloverleaf Landing Road, Bay Minette, AL 36527  
ZIP+4:

Latitude and Longitude (deg/min/sec): Connects 30.749765, -87.910833 and 30.756249, -87.904427

Congressional District (for project location): Congressional District 1

State Senate District (for project location): State Senate District 22

State House District (for project location): State House District 96

Applicant Contact Person and Title: Mike Bunn, Director

Phone Number: 251-626-0798

Email Address: director@blakeleypark.com

Grant Administrator or Other Contact, Title, and Organization: Mike Bunn

Phone Number: 251-626-0798

Email Address: director@blakeleypark.com

**Project Descriptive Narrative**

Provide a brief, yet informative, description of the proposed project and address each evaluation criterion on the following pages (provide additional information and documentation as may be needed to support your response to each evaluation criterion).

**Project Information**

Name of Project: USCT Division Trail\_\_\_\_\_

Trail Length in Linear Feet (L.F.): Approx. 3,000\_\_\_\_\_ Trail Width: 8 feet\_\_\_\_\_

Trail Surface Type: Natural with one wooden bridge\_\_\_\_\_

Application Type: ☐ Non-motorized for a Single Use ☐ Motorized  
x☒ Non-motorized for Diverse Use ☐ Educational

Type of Applicant: ☐ City/Town ☐ County  
☐ State x☒ Other

Total Estimated Project Cost	\$ 109,900_____
Grant Amount Requested	\$ 87,500_____
Total Local Match	\$ 22,400_____
Cash Match	\$ 6,000_____
In-Kind Match	\$ 16,400_____
Donation	\$ 0_____

**Brief Description of the Project:**

This new trail will connect publicly accessible portions of Historic Blakeley State Park's battlefield trail system with our new USCT Heritage Trail which allows guests access to trails running alongside original Civil War earthworks dug and used by one of the war's largest concentrations of African American soldiers—almost all of them former slaves.

**Please address all evaluation criteria (100 Total Available Points).**

- 1. Describe the degree to which the project's scope and feasibility meet the project area's recreational needs. (Key Consideration: Does the project appear to be feasible and incorporate a good project design with consideration given to the natural and cultural environment in which the project is located and appropriate consideration given to identified needs and project benefits?) 10 Points Available**

This project will connect new and existing trail systems in the park, facilitating a large increase in overall trail mileage available to multiple user groups while traversing some of the most pristine sections of the park and making it easier for park guests to enjoy all the park has to offer on foot, bike, or horseback. Unless this proposed new trail can be built, visitors desiring to see our new USCT Heritage Trail, which showcases earthworks used by one of the largest contingents of African-American soldiers to fight in any Civil War battle, will have to leave the park and travel a public road north to the entrance gate. There is currently no connection between the two areas. The proposed trail would allow for a seamless connection along portions of the park's incredibly preserved Civil War battlefield so that visitors can view intact rifle pits, trenches, and other battlefield features erected in the spring of 1865. The project is designed to traverse a large wooded ravine at its shallowest location so that the smallest possible bridge over a narrow stream is required. The trail will follow the natural terrain and wind its way through the forest in a way that allows for the fewest possible trees to be removed. It will connect with a county road crossing on its northern end for which county transportation department officials have agreed to work with the park to arrange for a safe pedestrian crossing if funded. For the convenience of guests, a prefabricated, NPS-style vault restroom will be placed near the trailhead.

- 2. Describe the ways in which the project provides for the greatest number of compatible recreational purposes. (Key Consideration: An important concern is that the project will enhance the quality and quantity of recreational trail opportunities available in the community or region. Points will be given to projects with connectivity to other trails and/or parks, environmental education and preservation, and economic development opportunities.) 10 Points Available**

The proposed trail will be designed to serve the multiple user groups which the park already serves on its more than 25 miles of recreational trails. These include hikers, bikers, and horseback riders. Blakeley is a popular destination for all these groups and more—it even hosts annual 5K events on its battlefield—but is one of the very few public locations with such significant lengths of developed biking and horseback riding trails. Our horseback ridership, in particular, is growing at a fast pace owing to the length and quality of trails we offer that user group and the distance they would otherwise have to travel to access a similar network. The nearest facility with an approximate trail system is actually out of state. Our bike rider visitorship is growing, as well, and has been an active partner in developing trail systems adapted to bike use. The proposed trail will significantly add to the park's diverse trail system and serve as a connection to two of its most distinct cultural heritage features.

- 3. Describe the ways in which the project provides a new, unique, or more effective means for making trail opportunities available to the public. (Key Consideration: This criterion includes projects of national, regional, and local demonstration value. The most important concern is whether the grant recipient is committed to trying an approach that is new at the local level. Additional points are awarded for nationwide applicability and statewide or regional value. The applicant must commit to documenting the results of the demonstration and identify the method to be used in documenting the results.) 10 Points Available**

The proposed trail will be available to guests of Historic Blakeley State Park as a convenient access point to discovering some of its most unique and nationally significant cultural heritage features. Two primary considerations in our planning are visitor convenience and safety, both of which we wanted to address in a practical fashion. With no vehicular connection between these two otherwise disconnected trail systems, visitors would be forced to leave the park proper, travel a mile and a half north, and enter the new trail system along a county road. Plus, to patrol these two areas park personnel would be required to do the same. Having this trail, which will be for diverse user groups and be able to be traveled in small offroad vehicles such as our side by side, will allow us to respond to any potential emergency in the new trail system much quicker than having to leave the park and travel public roads over a trail system which is much less costly and disruptive than a traditional vehicular road. The end result will be a relatively low-cost amenity for multiple user groups which connects vital portions of Alabama's largest Civil War battlefield and allows easier access to some of its most nationally-significant features.

- 4. Describe the ways in which the project facilitates the access and use of trails by persons with disabilities, older adults, economically disadvantaged, and other special populations or groups. (Key Consideration: Whether the project will expand recreation opportunities for special populations with recreation deficiencies.) 10 Points Available**

Because of its location and the terrain to be traversed, this trail may not be the best in the park for people with severe mobility disabilities. Construction of a massive bridge which would span the ravine would be prohibitive owing to cost and because of inherent damage to the natural and cultural features required for such a large undertaking. These would include clearing of large swaths of trees on both sides of the ravine and the installation of massive pilings which would necessitate severe disturbance in the area. In addition, the trail approaches run along terrain not conducive to creating a uniform width or smoothness of trail with any practical means. There is a steep ravine and a stream crossing to be considered, for example. We will make every effort to ensure it is as accessible as possible, however, and available to the widest possible range of the public. The trail will definitely expand access for a large segment of the visiting public, as day-use tickets to the park are only \$4 for adults, \$3 for kids ages 6-12, and kids under 6 are free. Veterans and active duty military receive complimentary admission.

- 5. Describe the ways in which the project creates opportunities for new partnerships between trail users, private interest groups, and public agencies within the project area. (Key Consideration: The major concern is that the project is a component of an integrated effort to enhance economic revitalization and community conservation. Points will be given to applicants providing evidence of cooperative efforts with trail user groups and/or multiple public meetings.) 10 Points Available**

The proposed trail system will promote partnerships between diverse trail user groups and partnering public agencies owing to the incredible range of cultural and natural heritage assets to which it facilitates access. The trail will first and foremost make a large portion of the preserved earthworks associated with the Civil War battle here and their use by one of the largest contingents of African-American soldiers to fight in the war, many never previously open to the public, available, but will also traverse a scenic and biologically-rich natural area where visitors can explore and learn about the natural environment of the Mobile-Tensaw Delta—a region some researchers have referred to as the “American Amazon.” Horseback riders, bikers, and hikers will be a part of the planning for this multi-use trail, and a number of public and private organizations with interest in the features the trail provides access to will have new opportunities for access, touring, and study of these portions of the park. All of this increases the value of the park and its assets to a range of peer groups with shared interests and makes collaborative programming more likely.

- 6. Describe the ways in which the project uses the grant funds to leverage other public or private investments (in the form of services and materials as well as dollars). (Key Consideration: The major concern is whether actual leveraging is assured or the potential for leveraging is good, outside of any funds committed for the initial grant match. Points will be given for applicants committing double the minimum local match or higher. Supporting documentation must be included in the application.) 10 Points Available**

Having increased multi-user access to the sections of the park affected by the proposed trail will increase its value as a heritage tourism resource and positively impact its potential for receiving future public and private investments in the future. The trail's development would result in a dramatic increase in use of the two areas of the park it connects, and enhance their visibility and attractiveness for investment by partnering nonprofits, government entities, and various granting agencies for programming, interpretation, and events. Safe access to these assets is critical in order for further investment and development to take place.

- 7. Describe the degree of commitment to continue operation and maintenance of the project. Include an operation and maintenance plan detailing the amount of money needed to operate and maintain the trail/facility after project completion and identify who will be responsible for these activities. (Key Consideration: Whether the grant recipient is willing to commit to continue the maintenance and operation of the facilities and whether the applicant provides a realistic operation and maintenance plan/budget. Additional points will be awarded to applicants demonstrating innovative funding measures for trail maintenance.) 10 Points Available**

Historic Blakeley State Park is fully committed and prepared to assume maintenance responsibilities for the proposed trail. As a vital link our growing trail system, it would regularly be patrolled and any issues promptly addressed as a matter of course as a part of basic park operations. Opportunities exist for including some maintenance of this trail as a part of special volunteer days such as our partnership with the American Battlefield Trust in the yearly "Park Day", and to work with specific user groups such as our horseback rider group and our biking group—both active and engaged partners with the park to stage focused maintenance of the trail on occasion.

- 8. The degree to which community involvement is addressed: i.e., (A) Project idea originated with trail users or a community group that has substantial knowledge, and (B) The private sector (including individual citizens, community groups, and/or local business enterprises) has participated in the development of the proposed idea and has made commitments of labor, money, or materials to support project implementation. (Key Consideration: The objective is to determine if the project is responding to citizen-identified needs. The priority of the project to users is evidenced by citizen support for the idea. Points will be awarded to applicants demonstrating that the project concept was originally proposed at the grassroots level and, especially, for extensive citizen or private organization involvement in project development and support in project implementation as well as applicants demonstrating extensive involvement and participation from citizens and interest groups during all phases of application development and commitments beyond. Supporting documentation must be included in the application.) 10 Points Available**

The concept for this project originated from a knowledge of 1) what would be most convenient for park guests 2) the need for improved safety as it concerns staff access to a newly-developed portion of the park and 3) the expressed desire of our horseback riding and bike riding community in particular to expand our trail systems so that they may have access to and increased amount of acreage in the park. Our hikers, bikers, and horseback riders, especially the latter two groups, work with staff very closely to monitor, improve and expand our trail systems for the benefit of all user groups. Accordingly, we take into account their specific needs as it concerns physical features such as width, slopes, height of trimming overhanging brush, bridge construction and approaches, and other factors so that we get the best possible product suitable to all user groups. The Historic Blakeley Foundation, a private non-profit, contributed the bulk of the matching funds for the development of the USCT Heritage Trail which the proposed trail will connect to from the developed portion of the park and stands ready to assist in this endeavor.

**9. Describe in detail how the trail will be managed. Include a discussion on season length, hours of operation, limitations on use, enforcement provisions, and scheduling. 10 Points Available**

The proposed trail will be open to the public during regular park hours: 365 days a year from 8AM to Dusk. Park rangers patrol all trails on a regular basis to inspect conditions and remove any downed trees or limbs, repair any washes along slopes, and address any maintenance issues on bridges over stream crossings and ravines. This trail would be subject to this same monitoring. Only when a special event is scheduled on the park's battlefield (a 5K race or a reenactment, etc...) would use of this proposed trail be briefly curtailed.

**10. Identify and describe the service area of the project. Approximately how many people do you propose to serve with this project? Identify other trail resources in the service area by trail type (motorized, non-motorized, multi-use), distance, location in relation to the proposed trail, and ownership. (Key Consideration: The RTP was created to address trail needs in the urban and rural areas of the state. In order to assess the need for additional trails it is first necessary to identify the quantity and location of existing resources within the service area. It is also necessary to establish a service area – either population or resource based. For example, a population-based service area could be a neighborhood, school district, or political jurisdiction whereas, a resource-based service area might be defined along a linear greenway, water course, or unique natural/cultural area. However, in both instances, an estimate of the number of beneficiaries should be provided. Please identify how the project service area was determined.) 10 Points Available**

The proposed trail would link two major sections of Historic Blakeley State Park—a 2,000-acre facility in Baldwin County, Alabama which contains among its many natural and cultural heritage features the site of Alabama's largest Civil War battlefield. The trail would be critical in providing access to a nationally-significant trail system focused on interpreting the role of former slaves in the Civil War battle which took place on our grounds. We believe it to be the only such distinct trail system of any Civil War battlefield in the nation. There are very few trail systems similar to ours in our region. Its primary significance will lie not so much in its own course but in the access it facilitates to a nationally-unique and significant story available nowhere else in the region or beyond. Hence the trail would be a strong addition to regional trail offerings on its own merit owing to its route alone, but its role in providing access to a rare cultural heritage resource must be considered.

**NOTE: Property acquired with RTP funds must remain open to the public in perpetuity. Should the property cease to be open to the public for trail use, the applicant must repay the RTP 80% (or the federal percentage share) of the fair market value of the property at the time of the change in use. If the project is located on an easement or on leased land, the minimum timeframe for the easement or lease is 25 years. The project must remain open for public access for the use for which the RTP funds were intended during that time. For development projects on applicant owned property, the project must remain open for public access for the use for which the RTP funds were intended for a minimum of 25 years.**



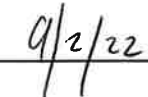
Total Project Cost: \$109,900\_\_\_\_\_ Funds Requested: \$87,500\_\_\_\_\_

**Important Note:** The maximum grant amount by trail type is **\$200,000.00** for non-motorized, single-use trails; **\$400,000.00** for non-motorized, diverse-use trails; **\$524,937.00** for motorized trails; or **\$87,489.00** for education projects.

The applicant certifies that the data contained in the application is true and correct; the application has been duly authorized; and, the applicant understands that incorrect or incomplete information may cause the application to be rejected.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Chief Elected Official's Signature)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Title)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

### Project Cost Estimate

The Recreational Trails Program provides **80/20 matching** fund grants. That is, the RTP will fund up to 80 percent of the project cost and the grant recipient must provide at least 20 percent in the form of cash, in-kind, and/or donated contributions.

#### Eligible Costs

1. Design, engineering, and construction oversight services (**may not exceed 10% of the total construction cost**)
2. Direct labor
3. Special tradesmen secured under a service purchase contract
4. Rental of equipment
5. Construction contracts
6. Project materials
7. Signage<sup>1</sup>
8. Land acquisition
9. Professional project administration (grant consultant) (**may not exceed 5% of total project cost**)

### PROJECT DEVELOPMENT BUDGET

BUDGET ITEM	TOTAL	RTP SHARE	MATCHING SHARE
Acquisition	-	-	-
Construction Contracts	\$77,500	\$77,500	-
Equipment Rental	\$3,000	-	\$3,000
Labor	\$8,400	-	\$8,400
Signage	\$2,500	-	\$2,500
Supplies/Materials	\$13,500	\$10,000	\$3,500
Administration	\$5,000	-	\$5,000
Engineering	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>	<b>\$109,900</b>	<b>\$87,500</b>	<b>\$22,400</b>

<sup>1</sup> Signs which function as traffic control devices must conform with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Part IX of the MUTCD, Traffic Controls for Bicycle Facilities, covers the bicycle related signs, pavement markings, and signals which may be used on highways or bikeways. Part IX is applicable to shared use paths (non-motorized multiple-use trails which may provide a transportation purpose). The publication Standard Highway Signs has the detailed drawings for the highway signs prescribed in the MUTCD. These documents are available for purchase from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

Signs which do not function as traffic control devices are not subject to the MUTCD. However, informational signs and kiosks must take into consideration the needs of various users, such as: people who are blind or who have low vision, people who use wheelchairs, and children.

## Environmental Screening Form (ESF)

This is a working tool for planners and decision-makers to use to identify the degree of potential impacts to resources that may occur as a result of federal approval of the proposal. It also serves as the administrative record documenting the applicant's efforts to identify and consider impacts during proposal development. Your ESF responses may change as the planning process refines the proposal that will ultimately be submitted along with the final completed ESF for federal review and decision.

As early as possible in your planning process, consider how your proposal/project may have direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts on the human environment. Early identification of possible environmental resource impacts can be used during proposal development and assist in identifying ways to lessen impacts. Initiating or completing environmental analysis after a decision has been made is contrary to both the spirit and letter of the law of the National Environmental Policy Act.

The ESF should be completed with input from resource experts and in consultation with relevant local, state, tribal, and federal governments, as applicable. The interested and affected public should be notified of the proposal and invited to provide input as well. At a minimum, a site inspection of the affected area must be conducted by individuals who are familiar with the type of affected resources, possess the ability to identify potential resource impacts, and know when to seek additional data when needed.

At the time of proposal submission, the completed ESF should reflect the applicant's final determination of the extent to which the proposal will impact the list of resources on the form. The results of the completed ESF will assist in the identification of the appropriate NEPA pathway to be followed, i.e., categorical exclusion (CE), environmental assessment (EA), environmental impact statement (EIS). Also, the completed ESF will identify the resource topics and issues that should be presented and analyzed in an EA or an EIS, if required.

The ESF contains two parts that must be completed, Part A. Impacts to Environmental Resources and Part B. Mandatory Criteria.

**Part A:** For each environmental resource topic, choose an impact estimate level (none, negligible, minor, exceeds minor) that describes the degree of potential negative impact that may occur directly, indirectly, and cumulatively as a result of federal approval of your proposal. These impact levels should be used to estimate specific impact levels on each separate resource and must be accompanied with a brief explanation of how the resource might be affected, how the impact level was determined, and why the chosen impact level is appropriate. If an environmental review has already been conducted on your proposal, is still viable, and it includes planned mitigation, explain this for each applicable resource and choose an impact level as mitigated. If the resource does not apply to your proposal, mark NA in the first column. Add any relevant resources (see A24) if not included in the list.

Use a separate sheet to explain all potential adverse impacts (negligible, minor, and those exceeding minor) as well as to indicate the type of data that still needs to be determined for each of the applicable resources listed below. Describe direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts, as well as any planned mitigation, already addressed in previous environmental reviews.

**Part B:** This is a list of mandatory impact criteria that preclude the use of categorical exclusions. If you answer “yes” or “maybe” for any of the mandatory criteria, you must develop an EA or EIS regardless of your answers in Part A. Explain all “yes” and “maybe” answers on a separate sheet.

*Indicate potential for **adverse** impacts.*

<b>A. ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES</b>	<b>No Impacts or Not Applicable</b>	<b>Negligible Impacts</b>	<b>Minor Impacts</b>	<b>Impacts Exceed Minor EA/EIS required</b>	<b>More Data Needed to Determine EA/EIS required</b>
1. Geological resources: soils, bedrock, slopes, streambeds, landforms, etc.	<b>x</b>				
2. Air quality	<b>x</b>				
3. Sound (noise impacts)	<b>x</b>				
4. Water quality/quantity	<b>x</b>				
5. Streamflow characteristics	<b>x</b>				
6. Marine/estuarine	<b>x</b>				
7. Floodplains/wetlands	<b>x</b>				
8. Land use/ownership patterns; property values; community livability	<b>x</b>				
9. Circulation, transportation	<b>x</b>				
10. Plant/animal/fish species of special concern and habitat; state/federal listed or proposed for listing	<b>x</b>				
11. Unique ecosystems, such as biosphere reserves, World Heritage sites, old-growth forests, etc.	<b>x</b>				
12. Unique or important wildlife/wildlife habitat	<b>x</b>				
13. Unique or important fish/habitat	<b>x</b>				
14. Introduce or promote invasive species (plant or animal)	<b>x</b>				
15. Recreation resources, including parks, open space, conservation areas, rec. trails, facilities, services, opportunities, public access, etc.)	<b>x</b>				
16. Accessibility for populations with disabilities	<b>x</b>				
17. Overall aesthetics, special characteristics/features	<b>x</b>				
18. Historical/cultural resources, including landscapes, ethnographic, archeological, structures, etc.	<b>x</b>				
19. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure	<b>x</b>				
20. Minority and low-income populations	<b>x</b>				
21. Energy resources (geothermal, fossil fuels, etc.)	<b>x</b>				
22. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies	<b>x</b>				
23. Land/structures with a history of contamination/hazardous materials even if remediated	<b>x</b>				
24. Other important environmental resources that should be addressed	<b>x</b>				

B. MANDATORY CRITERIA If your proposal is approved, would it...	Yes	No	To be determined
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?		X	
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands, wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (E.O. 11990); floodplains (E.O. 11988); and other ecologically significant or critical areas?		X	
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2)(E)]?		X	
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		X	
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		X	
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		X	
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?(Attach SHPO/THPO Comments)		X	
8. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		X	
9. Violate a federal law, or a state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		X	
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		X	
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?		X	
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area, or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?		X	
<b>C. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CRITERIA</b>			
13. Is the area previously disturbed and unlikely to result in any excavation beyond surface disturbance possibly impacting archaeology?		X	
14. Is the area regularly mowed and therefore unlikely to contain endangered species?		X	
15. Is there any surface water within direct proximity to the project which would require protection from construction impacts?		X	

**Environmental Reviewers**

The following individual(s) provided input in the completion of the environmental screening form. **List all reviewers including name, title, agency, field of expertise.** Keep all environmental review records and data on this proposal in state compliance file for any future program review and/or audit. **There must be at least one person listed here.**

1. Wayne Barger      Botanist, Alabama DCNR \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

The following individuals conducted a site inspection to verify field conditions.

**List name of inspector(s), title, agency, and date(s) of inspection. There must be at least one person listed here.**

1. Wayne Barger      Botanist, Alabama DCNR \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Chief Elected Official here:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date 9/2/22

Environmental Checklist For Recreational Trails Program Project**County: Baldwin** \_\_\_\_\_**Project Location: Historic Blakeley State Park** \_\_\_\_\_**Project Sponsor/Applicant: Historic Blakeley State Park** \_\_\_\_\_**Project Description: Recreational Trail** \_\_\_\_\_

Concurrence from Alabama Historical Commission attached?	Yes	No X
Concurrence from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services attached?	Yes X	No
Concurrence from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers attached?	Yes	No X
Tribal Consultation attached?	Yes	No
Was the property acquired before January 1971?	Yes	No
If "No" explain property acquisition process (Use additional sheets if necessary):		
No. Donated to the Historic Blakeley Foundation.		

Note: If you have not received the concurrence letters by the application deadline, submit copies of the request letters. Concurrences over three (3) years old cannot be used and new concurrences must be obtained.

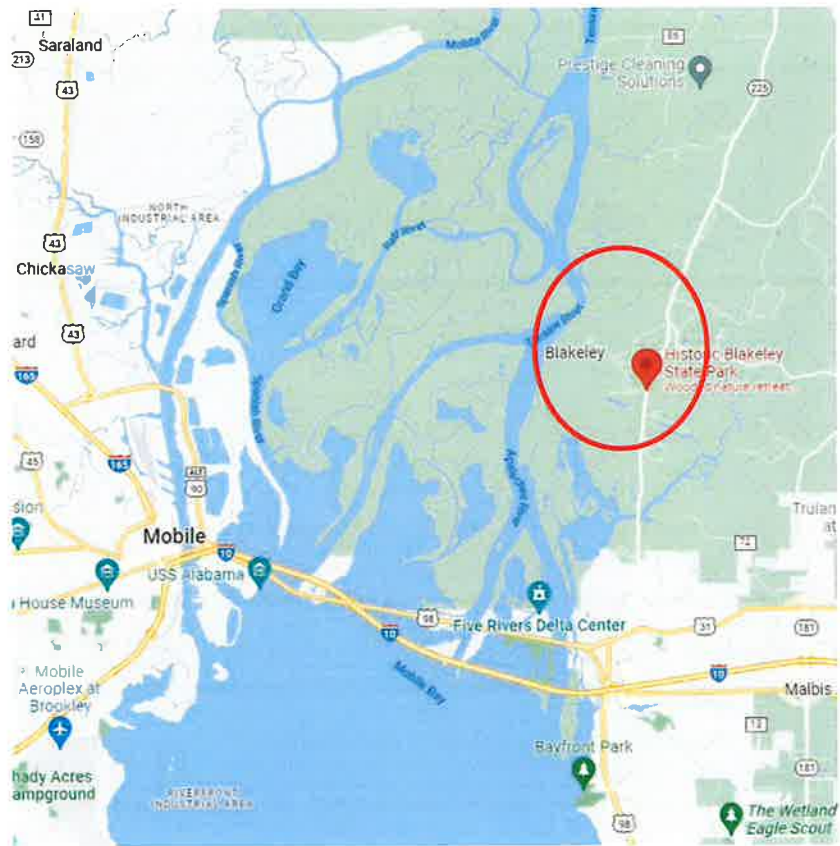
**Required Letters of Concurrence and Release of Conditions****U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

<b>Mobile District Corps of Engineers</b>	<b>Nashville District Corps of Engineers</b>
Chief, Regulatory Division	Western Regulatory Field Office
Post Office Box 2288	2424 Danville Road, SW, STE N
Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001	Decatur, Alabama 35603-4219
Phone: 251-690-2658	Phone Number: 256-350-5620

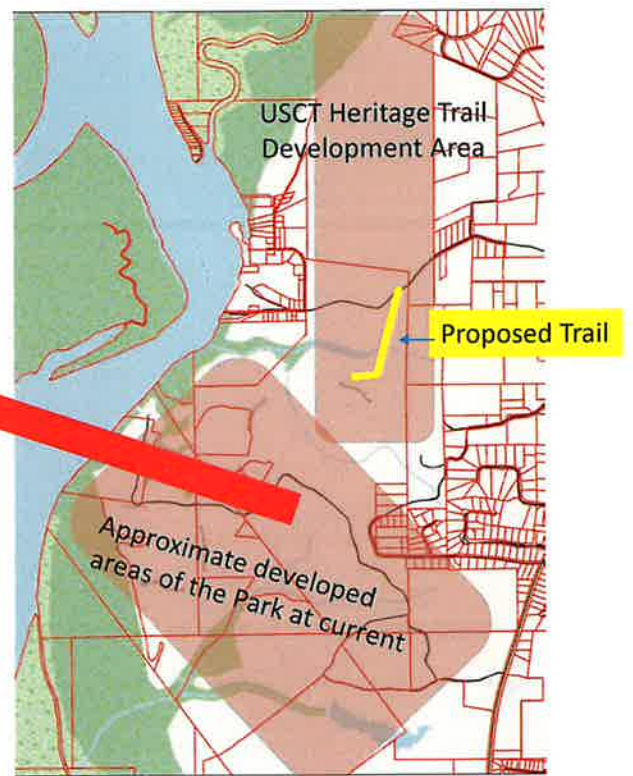
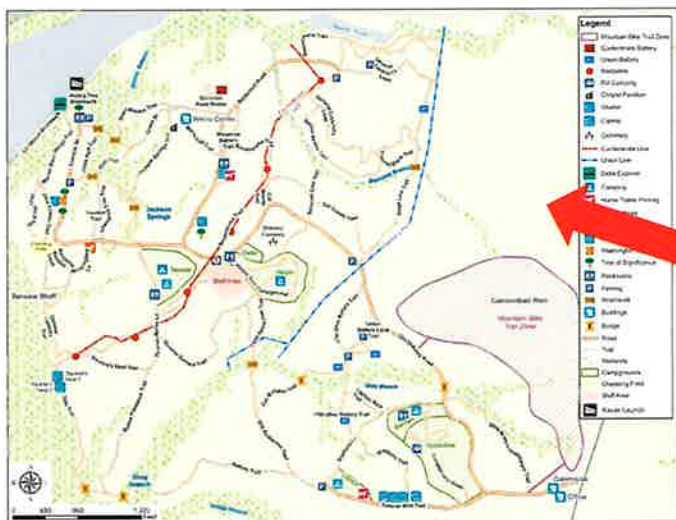
Alabama Historical Commission: Amanda McBride, Environmental Review Coordinator, Alabama Historical Commission, Post Office Box 300900, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900, Phone: 334-230-2692, Email: amanda.mcbride@ahc.alabama.gov

U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service: Mr. Bill Pearson, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1208-B Main Street, Daphne, Alabama 36526-4419, Phone: 251-441-5181, Email: bill\_pearson@fws.gov.

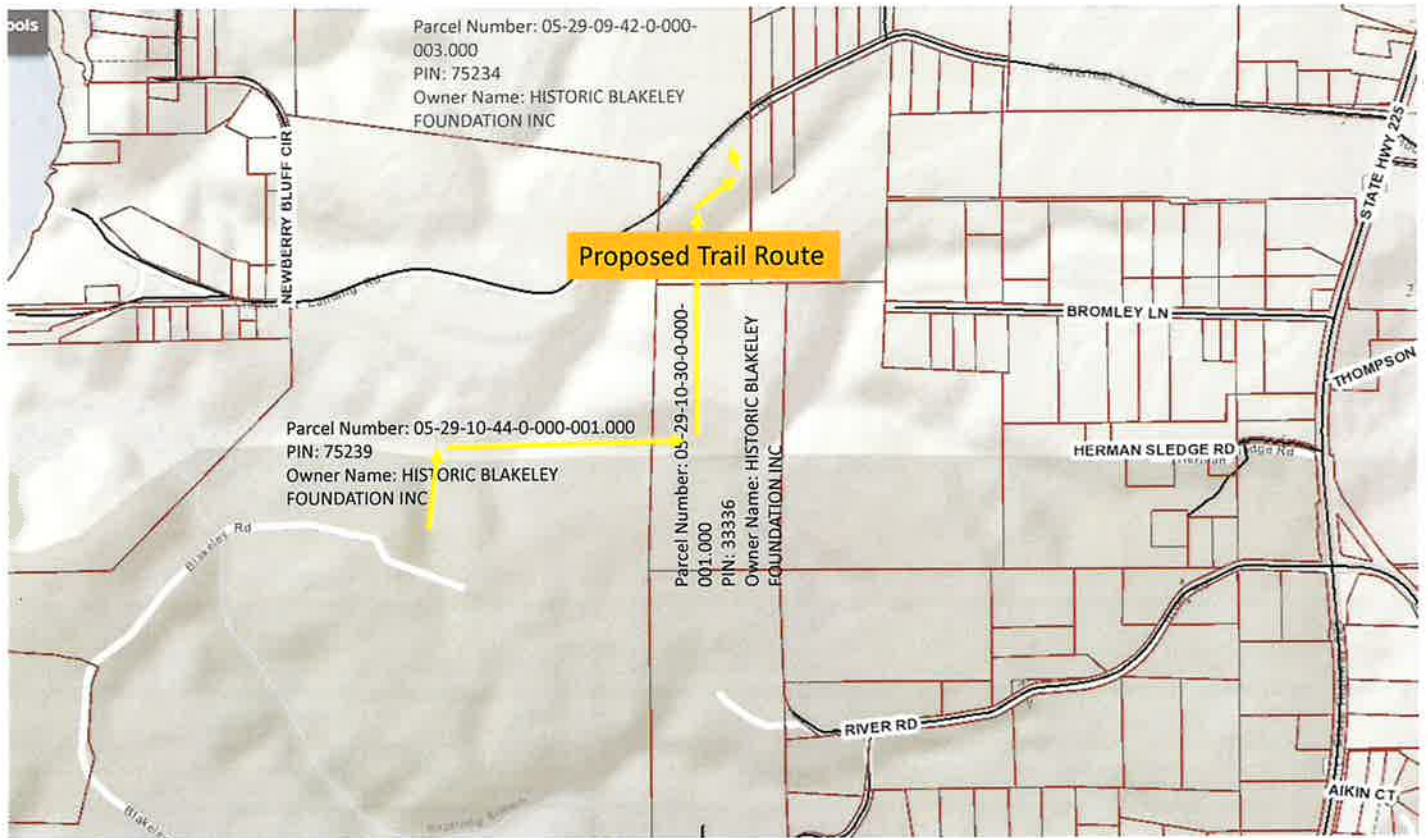




Current Publicly-Accessible  
areas of  
Historic Blakeley State Park











West end of ravine trail will cross

Battlefield Road

"Battlefield" Area of the park

Existing trail entrance

Confederate Redoubt 4



Proposed trail would run north to USCT Heritage Trail area approximately half mile north to Cloverleaf Landing Road (not visible in this image)

Battlefield area

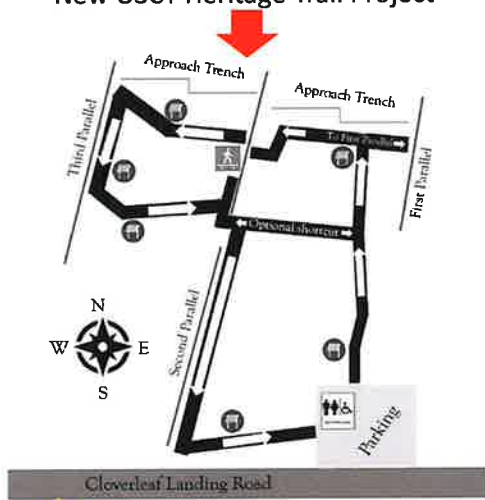
Federal Third Parallel which ends on edge of ravine

To Redoubt 4 and Trailhead





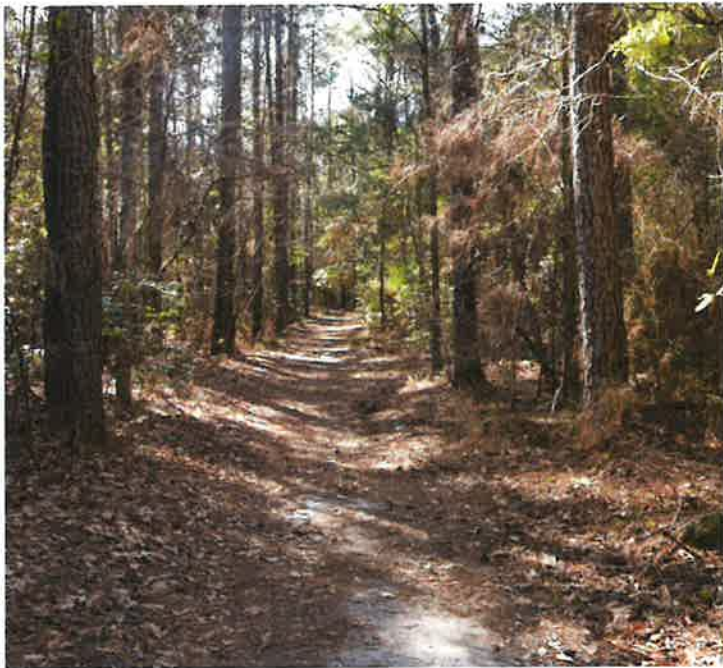
# New USCT Heritage Trail Project



Developed portions of the park,  
ca. .5 miles

Hwy. 225





Typical park trail of the type we plan to create



Type of bridge to installed

Vault restroom of the type to  
be placed at trailhead





# Baldwin County Revenue Commissioner

## Property Appraisal Link BALDWIN COUNTY, AL

Current Date 8/22/2022

Tax Year 2022  
Valuation Date October 1, 2021

### OWNER INFORMATION

<b>PARCEL</b>	29-10-44-0-000-001.000	<b>PPIN</b> 075239	<b>TAX DIST</b> 02H4
<b>NAME</b>	HISTORIC BLAKELEY FOUNDATION INC		
<b>ADDRESS</b>	34745 STATE HWY 225		
	SPANISH FORT AL 36527		
<b>DEED TYPE</b> RP	<b>BOOK</b> 0389	<b>PAGE</b> 0000664	
<b>PREVIOUS OWNER</b>			
<b>LAST DEED DATE</b>	5/15/1990		

### DESCRIPTION

480 AC(C) BEG AT THE SE COR OF GR SEC 44 RUN TH W 1579'(S), TH NW 3100.9', TH NE 180.6', TH NE 188.3', TH NE 33.1', TH N E 30.2', TH NW 13.7', TH NE 24.7', TH NE 96.6', TH NW 86.9', TH NE 89.6', TH NE 622.8', TH NW 248.8', TH SW 53.4', TH W 188.2', TH SW 128.9', TH SW 200.5', TH SW 86.8', TH SW 581.4', TH NW 1053'(S), TH E 1102.5', TH NE 398.3', TH NW 105.8', TH N 322.7', TH NE 111.9', TH NW 122.2', TH W & SW 1465.6', TH N 875'(S), TH E 1320', TH NE 1501', TH N 1580', TH SE 2170', TH S 4470', TH W 660', TH S 710'(S); TH SWLY 251'(S); TH H SELY 1257'(S); TH S 210'; TH E 40'(S); TH S 1342'(S) TO THE POB ALSO COM AT THE SW COR OF GRANT SEC 45-T3S-R2E; TH N 1968.66'; TH W 660' TO THE POB; TH CONT W 71.3' TO THE E R/W OF WILLIAMS RD; TH NLY ALG SAID R/W 398'(S); TH S 354'(S) TO THE POB (DEED)

### PROPERTY INFORMATION

<b>PROPERTY ADDRESS</b>	35500 WILLIAMS RD		
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD</b>	SPANISHFT	SPANISH FORT AREA	
<b>PROPERTY CLASS</b>	SUB CLASS		
<b>LOT - BLOCK</b>			
<b>SECTION/TOWNSHIP/RANGE</b>	00-00 -00		
<b>LOT DIMENSION</b>			
	<b>ZONING</b>		

### PROPERTY VALUES

<b>LAND:</b>	1722000	<b>CLASS 1:</b>	<b>TOTAL ACRES:</b>	480.00
<b>BUILDING:</b>	49600	<b>CLASS 2:</b>	<b>TIMBER ACRES:</b>	
		1771600		
		<b>CLASS 3:</b>		
<b>TOTAL PARCEL VALUE:</b>	1771600			
<b>ESTIMATED TAX:</b>	\$0.00			

### DETAIL INFORMATION

<u>CODE</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>REF</u>	<u>METHOD</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>LAND USE</u>	<u>TC</u>	<u>HsPn</u>	<u>MARKET USE</u>	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>VALUE</u>
M	<u>LAND</u>	2	MA	MA-8750	480.00 acres	8100-AGRICULTURAL	2	N N	1722000	
	<u>BLDG</u>	1	C	600	SERVICE/SHOP (LOW PARTIT -		2	N N	49600	

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# Baldwin County Revenue Commissioner

## Property Appraisal Link BALDWIN COUNTY, AL

Current Date 8/22/2022

Tax Year 2022

Valuation Date October 1, 2021

### OWNER INFORMATION

**PARCEL** 29-09-42-0-000-003.000 **PPIN** 075234 **TAX DIST** 02H4  
**NAME** HISTORIC BLAKELEY FOUNDATION INC  
**ADDRESS** 34745 STATE HWY 225  
SPANISH FORT AL 36527  
**DEED TYPE** RP **BOOK** 0389 **PAGE** 0000664  
**PREVIOUS OWNER**  
**LAST DEED DATE** 5/15/1990

### DESCRIPTION

423 AC(C) BEG AT THE INT OF SW COR OF GR 42 WITH E/L OF GR 4  
4 RUN E 594', TH N 5240'(S) TO N/L OF GR 42 RUN NW ALG N/L O  
F GR 42 1036'(S), TH NE 810'(S), TH W TO RANGE LINE, TH S AL  
G RANGE LINE 1965'(S), TH E 2630'(S), TH SW 660'(S), TH S 26  
25'(S), TH SE 2190'(S) TO POB GR SEC 42-T3S-R2E

### PROPERTY INFORMATION

**PROPERTY ADDRESS** 6955 CLOVERLEAF LANDING RD  
**NEIGHBORHOOD** SPANISHFT **SPANISH FORT AREA**  
**PROPERTY CLASS** **SUB CLASS**  
**LOT BLOCK**  
**SECTION/TOWNSHIP/RANGE** 00-00 -00  
**LOT DIMENSION** **ZONING**

### PROPERTY VALUES

**LAND:** 1961700 **CLASS 1:** **TOTAL ACRES:** 423.00  
**BUILDING:** **CLASS 2:** **TIMBER ACRES:** 423.00  
**CLASS 3:** 1961700  
**TOTAL PARCEL VALUE:** 1961700  
**ESTIMATED TAX:** \$0.00

### DETAIL INFORMATION

<u>CODE</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>REF METHOD</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>LAND USE</u>	<u>TC</u>	<u>HsPn</u>	<u>MARKET USE</u>	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>VALUE</u>
M	LAND	2	MA MA-8750	423.00 acres	8100-AGRICULTURAL	3	N N	1961700	

[View Tax Record](#)

[View Map](#)



# Baldwin County Revenue Commissioner

## Property Appraisal Link BALDWIN COUNTY, AL

Current Date 8/22/2022

Tax Year 2022

Valuation Date October 1, 2021

### OWNER INFORMATION

**PARCEL** 29-10-30-0-000-001.000 **PPIN** 033336 **TAX DIST** 02H4  
**NAME** HISTORIC BLAKELEY FOUNDATION INC  
**ADDRESS** 34745 STATE HWY 225  
 SPANISH FORT AL 36527  
**DEED TYPE** IN **BOOK** 0000 **PAGE** 0698963  
**PREVIOUS OWNER** CONFEDERATE TRACE L L C  
**LAST DEED DATE** 12/ 9/2002

### DESCRIPTION

29 AC(C) BEG AT THE SE COR OF SEC 30 RUN TH W 753.6', TH N 1  
 665'(S), TH E 760'(S), TH S 1670'(S) TO THE POB FRL SEC 30-T  
 3S-R2E (WD)

### PROPERTY INFORMATION

**PROPERTY ADDRESS** BROMLEY LN  
**NEIGHBORHOOD** SPANISHFT **SPANISH FORT AREA**  
**PROPERTY CLASS** **SUB CLASS**  
**LOT BLOCK**  
**SECTION/TOWNSHIP/RANGE** 00-00 -00  
**LOT DIMENSION** **ZONING**

### PROPERTY VALUES

**LAND:** 104000 **CLASS 1:** **TOTAL ACRES:** 29.00  
**BUILDING:** **CLASS 2:** **TIMBER ACRES:** 29.00  
**CLASS 3:** 104000  
**TOTAL PARCEL VALUE:** 104000  
**ESTIMATED TAX:** \$0.00

### DETAIL INFORMATION

CODE TYPE	REF METHOD	DESCRIPTION	LAND USE	TC HsPn	MARKET USE
				VALUE	VALUE
M	LAND 6	MA MA-8750	29.00 acres	8100-AGRICULTURAL 3	N N 104000

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# Project Timeline

## **March 2022**

Mark trail route

Contract for archaeological survey for restroom location

## **April 2022**

Plan for directional and interpretive signage

## **May 2022**

Begin trail clearing

Research for interpretive signage

## **June 2022**

Continue trail clearing

Draft interpretive signage

## **July 2022**

Archaeological survey of restroom site

Review of draft of interpretive signage

Finish trail clearing

## **August 2022**

Order bridge materials

Send interpretive signage out for design

## **September 2022**

Order interpretive signage

Order prefabricated restroom from supplier

Begin bridge construction

## **October 2022**

Continue bridge construction

## **November 2022**

Finish bridge construction

## **December 2022**

Install interpretive signage

Order gate and security camera



**January 2023**

Order directional signage

Schedule installation of pedestrian crossing with county DOT

**February 2023**

Installation of restroom

**March 2023**

Install directional signage

Install gate and security camera on Cloverleaf Landing Road exit

**April 2023**

Work with county DOT to prepare pedestrian crossing

**May 2023**

Order materials (gravel, asphalt millings, dirt) for trail smoothing and stabilization

**June 2023**

Spread gravel and millings along trail as needed

**July 2023**

Spread gravel and millings along trail as needed

**August 2023**

Prepare final report

**September 2023**

Grand opening

Submit final report



August 17, 2022

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs  
Attn: LaToya Edwards, Recreation and Conservation Programs Specialist  
401 Adams Avenue, Suite 524  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

Dear Ms. Edwards,

We, the officers of the Historic Blakeley Authority which operates Historic Blakeley State Park, acting as its executive committee, affirm that have authorized the submission of the enclosed application for ADECA funding for the proposed USCT Division Battlefield Trail at the park.

We further affirm that we are committed to supplying the matching funds necessary for its completion should our project be selected for funding.

Respectfully,

---

Darrellyn Dunmore  
Darrellyn Dunmore, Chair

---

Richard Johnson, Vice Chair

---

Stanley Anderson, Treasurer

**Signature:**   
Darrellyn Dunmore (Aug 17, 2022 18:34 CDT)  
**Email:** darrellynjd@gmail.com

**Signature:**  
**Email:** richard.johnson@phelps.com

**Signature:**  
**Email:** anderstan11@gmail.com



August 17, 2022

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs  
Attn: LaToya Edwards, Recreation and Conservation Programs Specialist  
401 Adams Avenue, Suite 524  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

Dear Ms. Edwards,

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Respectfully,

---

Darrellyn Dunmore, Chair

---

Richard Johnson, Vice Chair

Stanley R Anderson

---

Stanley Anderson, Treasurer

Signature: Stanley R Anderson  
Stanley R Anderson (Aug 22, 2022 14:04 CDT)

Email: anderstan11@gmail.com



August 17, 2022

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs  
Attn: LaToya Edwards, Recreation and Conservation Programs Specialist  
401 Adams Avenue, Suite 524  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

Dear Ms. Edwards,

We, the officers of the Historic Blakeley Authority which operates Historic Blakeley State Park, acting as its executive committee, affirm that have authorized the submission of the enclosed application for ADECA funding for the proposed USCT Division Battlefield Trail at the park.

We further affirm that we are committed to supplying the matching funds necessary for its completion should our project be selected for funding.

Respectfully,

---

Darrellyn Dunmore, Chair

rbj

---

Richard Johnson, Vice Chair

---

Stanley Anderson, Treasurer

Signature:   
rbj (Aug 22, 2022 21:26 CDT)

Email: richard.johnson@phelps.com



**BALDWIN COUNTY**  
**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**  
P.O. Box 220  
**SILVERHILL, ALABAMA 36576**  
TELEPHONE: (251) 937-0371  
FAX (251) 937-0201

**JOEY NUNNALLY, P.E.**  
**COUNTY ENGINEER**

August 14, 2022

Historic Blakeley State Park  
Mr. Mike Bunn

Dear Mr. Bunn:

Re: Pedestrian Crossing on Cloverleaf Landing Rd  
AREA 100

Thank you for contacting us about the intent to expand the trail system to connect the Battlefield Area to the new USCT Heritage Trail development within the Historic Blakeley State Park. If the Park successful in securing funding for the project, the Baldwin County Highway Department agrees to work with you to install a safe pedestrian crossing at the trail crossing point on Cloverleaf Landing Rd.

Sincerely,

Joey Nunnally, P.E.  
County Engineer

JN/fl

cc: file

Orie King  
Kevin Carroll  
Tyler Mitchell



SEN. CHRIS ELLIOTT  
DISTRICT 32

REP. MATT SIMPSON  
DISTRICT 96

REP. T. JOE FAUST  
DISTRICT 94

REP. STEPHEN A. MCMILLAN  
DISTRICT 95

## BALDWIN LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION CONSTITUENT SERVICES

203 OAK STREET  
POST OFFICE BOX 776  
BAY MINETTE, ALABAMA 36507

Telephone: (251) 937-0240

Fax: (251) 580-1645

Cliff McCollum, Director



SEN. GREG ALBRITTON  
DISTRICT 22

REP. HARRY SHIVER  
DISTRICT 64

REP. ALAN BAKER  
DISTRICT 66

August 11, 2022

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs  
Attn: LaToya Edwards, Recreation and Conservation Programs Specialist  
Post Office Box 5690  
Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5690

Dear Ms. Edwards,

As the members of the Baldwin County Legislative Delegation, we all strongly support Historic Blakeley State Park's application for grant funding to complete the proposed USCT Division Battlefield Trail.

A multi-use trail serving the needs of the park's growing hiking, biking, and horseback riding visitors would link two major sections of the park's more than three-mile wide Civil War battlefield. Currently, the affected areas are unconnected and can only be accessed by vehicle by exiting the developed portion of the park and driving over a mile and a half north.

The portions of the battlefield to be connected by this trail are especially important in state and even national history. The currently accessible portion is the scene of some of the most intense fighting in the Battle of Fort Blakeley, where several Medals of Honor were won and which led to the surrender of Mobile to Federal forces.

The new USCT Heritage Trail system about a half mile north is a special project interpreting the role of former slaves in the battle by providing visitor access to earthworks dug and used by one of the war's largest contingents of African-American soldiers. To our knowledge, it is the only such project system in the nation and will be a great feature for Blakeley and the State of Alabama to highlight and celebrate.

Additionally, the proposed trail would also feature Blakeley's incredible natural environment by connecting longleaf pine ecosystems via a trail through a lowland Delta forest. The trail would follow the natural terrain, cutting as little brush and trees as possible and bridging a small stream. The restroom they plan to place at the trailhead would be a significant convenience for trail users, especially considering the closest facility is nearly a mile distant within Blakeley's expansive grounds.

As both a practical approach to connecting two widely separated areas and a new amenity for this growing cultural and natural heritage institution, we believe this proposed project would be of immense value both to the park and the larger region and we implore you to give it your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

Sen. Greg Albritton

Sen. Chris Elliott

Rep. Alan Baker

Rep. Joe Faust

Rep. Matt Simpson

Rep. Harry Shiver

**JERRY CARL**  
FIRST DISTRICT, ALABAMA

1330 LONGWORTH HOB  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-4931

WEB PAGE: [www.carl.house.gov](http://www.carl.house.gov)

House Armed Services Committee  
House Natural Resources Committee



U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC  
August 11, 2022

Ms. LaToya Edwards  
Recreation and Conservation Programs Specialist  
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs  
PO Box 5690  
Montgomery, AL 36103-5690

Dear Ms. Edwards,

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my strong support for Historic Blakeley State Park who is applying for funding through the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs to complete the proposed USCT Division Battlefield Trail.

A multi-use trail serving the needs of the park's growing hiking, biking, and horseback riding visitors, it would link two major sections of the park's more than three-mile wide Civil War battlefield. Currently, the affected areas are unconnected and can only be accessed by vehicle by exiting the developed portion of the park and driving over a mile and a half north. The portions of the battlefield to be connected by this trail are especially important in state and even national history. The currently accessible portion is the scene of some of the most intense fighting in the Battle of Fort Blakeley, where several Medals of Honor were won and which led to the surrender of Mobile to Federal forces. The new USCT Heritage Trail system about a half mile north is a special project interpreting the role of former slaves in the battle by providing visitor access to earthworks dug and used by one of the war's largest contingents of African-American soldiers. To my knowledge, it is the only such project system in the nation. In addition to all its historical significance, the trail also serves to highlight Blakeley's incredible natural environment by connecting longleaf pine ecosystems via a trail through a lowland Delta forest.

The park's plan is to construct the trail by following the natural terrain, cutting as little brush and trees as possible, and bridging a small stream. The restroom they plan to place at the trailhead would be a significant convenience for trail users, especially considering the closest facility is nearly a mile distant within Blakeley's expansive grounds. As both a practical approach to connecting two widely separated areas and a new amenity for this growing cultural and natural heritage institution, I believe this proposed project would be of immense value both to the park and the larger region.

I respectfully request that you give Historic Blakeley State Park's application every consideration. If you feel that I may be of further assistance or can provide you with any additional information, please do not hesitate to let me know.

With best regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry R. Carl".

Jerry Carl  
Member of Congress



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
US ARMY ROTC CADET COMMAND  
6<sup>TH</sup> BRIGADE FORWARD  
JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS  
MOBILE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
P.O. BOX 180069  
1 MAGNUM PASS  
MOBILE, AL 36618



Robert F. Barrow  
Director of Army Instruction

(251) 221-5100 Voice  
(251) 221-5102 Fax

11 August 2022

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs  
Attn: LaToya Edwards, Recreation and Conservation Programs Specialist  
Post Office Box 5690  
Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5690

Dear Ms. Edwards,

Please accept this my strong endorsement of the park's application for grant funding to complete the proposed USCT Division Battlefield Trail. I have been bringing JROTC groups to Blakeley as a part of their training for many years and have enjoyed working with the park's leadership in collaborating to make our visits as educational as possible. I am also aware that other groups, such as those from nearby military bases, have used the park's facilities in a comparable manner and no doubt had the same experience.

I urge you to consider assisting the park in creating this multi-use trail serving the needs of the park's growing hiking, biking, and horseback riding visitors. Not only would it link two major sections of the park's more than three-mile wide Civil War battlefield, but it would also traverse a beautiful section of the park's forested lands to which we have not previous had access. I am delighted to see the park take into consideration the needs of hiking groups in planning for this trail and see it as a tremendous opportunity to further explore this historic site.

There is no question that this proposed project would be of immense value both to the park and the larger region as well as facilitate the continuing growth of the park's increasingly diverse groups of visitors.

Feel free to contact me directly if I can be of further assistance in securing this grant. I thank you in advance for giving this application thoughtful consideration and am optimistic we will see this project go through in the very near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert F. Barrow".

Robert F. Barrow  
Lieutenant Colonel, USA Retired  
Director of Army Instruction



Anne Guinn & William Roach  
23 Speckle Trout Route  
Spanish Fort, AL 36527

August 11, 2022

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs  
Attn: LaToya Edwards, Recreation and Conservation Programs Specialist  
Post Office Box 5690  
Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5690

Dear Ms. Edwards,

Please accept our strong endorsement of the park's application for grant funding to complete the proposed USCT Division Battlefield Trail.

My husband and I have been members of the park's friends group for twenty years, and often enjoy traversing its many miles of trails. We have enjoyed working with the park's leadership in collaborating to make improvements throughout the trail system, and on several occasions we have volunteered to assist in maintenance and development of the trail system.

We urge you to consider assisting the park in creating this multi-use trail serving the needs of the park's growing hiking, biking, and horseback riding visitors. Not only would it link two major sections of the park's more than three-mile wide Civil War battlefield, it would traverse a beautiful section of the park's forested lands to which we have not previously had access. We are delighted to see the park take into consideration the needs of hiking groups in planning for this trail, and see it as a convenient amenity that would be well used.

As both a practical approach to connecting two widely separated areas of the park's lands and a new recreational resource in its own right, we believe this proposed project would be of immense value both to the park and the larger region as well as facilitate the continuing growth of the park's visitorship.

We respectfully request you to give it your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

The block contains two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature, on the left, is 'Anne Guinn' and the second, on the right, is 'William Roach'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anne Guinn & William Roach



August 17, 2022

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs  
Attn: LaToya Edwards, Recreation and Conservation Programs Specialist  
Post Office Box 5690  
Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5690

Dear Ms. Edwards,

Please accept this as the Historic Blakeley Foundation's strong endorsement of Historic Blakeley State Park's application for grant funding to complete the proposed USCT Division Battlefield Trail.

A multi-use trail serving the needs of the park's growing hiking, biking, and horseback riding visitors, it would link two major sections of the park's more than three-mile wide Civil War battlefield. The trail would traverse the property of the Foundation, a nonprofit support group which works to preserve, interpret, and develop the park. The Foundation allows use of its lands as part of the park through formal agreement between the board of the Foundation and the park's governing board.

Currently the areas of the park which would be impacted by the proposed trail are unconnected and can only be accessed by vehicle by exiting the developed portion of the park and driving over a mile and a half north. The portions of the battlefield to be connected by this trail are especially important in state and even national history. The currently accessible portion is the scene of some of the most intense fighting in the Battle of Fort Blakeley, where several Medals of Honor were won and which led to the surrender of Mobile to Federal forces. The new USCT Heritage Trail system about a half mile north is a special new project interpreting the role of former slaves in the battle by providing visitor access to earthworks dug and used by one of the war's largest contingents of African-American soldiers. To my knowledge, it is the only such project system in the nation. In addition to its historical significance, the trail also serves to highlight Blakeley's incredible natural environment by connecting longleaf pine ecosystems via a trail through a lowland Delta forest.

The park's plan is to construct the trail by following the natural terrain, cutting as little brush and as few trees as possible, and bridging a small stream. The restroom they plan to place at the trailhead would be a significant convenience for trail users, especially considering the closest facility is nearly a mile distant within Blakeley's expansive grounds. As both a practical approach to connecting two widely separated areas and a new amenity for this growing cultural and natural heritage institution, I believe this proposed project would be of immense value to the park and its visitors.

I urge you to give it your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

Dwight Johnson  
Chair, Historic Blakeley Foundation

Tuesday, August 16, 2022

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs

Attn: LaToya Edwards, Recreation and Conservation Programs Specialist

Post Office Box 5690

Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5690

Dear Ms. Edwards,

I am writing this as a person who strongly endorses Blakeley State Park's Horseback riding Community. I manage the Horseback Riding page for Blakeley on Facebook, and we have nearly 700 members on that page. There are acres of beauty, and history to ride and hike through in Blakeley Park. Baldwin County is growing so fast that there are not that many safe areas to ride or hike with your dogs, and experience nature safely here. Representing our group, I am asking that you please consider the application for grant funding to complete the proposed USCT Division Battlefield Trail. This will be a multi-purpose trail used by walkers and riders alike. As a group we have worked with the park's leadership for several years to help develop horse friendly trails and amenities and appreciate the open collaboration which has been demonstrated on several projects.

We urge you to consider assisting the park in creating these multi-use trails serving the needs of the park's ever-growing popularity and multi-purpose use. Not only would it link two major sections of the park's more than three mile wide Civil War battlefield, it would traverse a beautiful section of the park's forested lands which have not had previous access. We are so thrilled that the park takes the wishes of the horse riders and others' considerations so seriously, and I can assure you that all the improvements would be greatly used.

These improvements would be a practical approach to connecting two widely separated areas of the park's lands and a new recreational resource in its own right. These improvements would allow more visitors to see new areas in the park, and facilitate the separation of bikers, hikers and horses when necessary.

We urge you to give this your careful consideration with sincere gratitude for your time.

Sincerely,

Gayle B. Decker

Blakeley Park Horse Rider's representative

P.S. I am enclosing other peoples' names who asked to be included in this request:

Melanie Beiser  
Caroline DuBose Bedwell  
Leann Johnson  
Lisa Johnson  
Kathy Wiggins  
Ellen Corte  
Dr. Ahmet Helvacioğlu  
Kittie Helvacioğlu  
Lorie Farmer Jones and family  
Kasey Lancaster  
Christina Dawson  
Tracy Burns  
Winkie Penny  
Alison Scull  
Larry Croomes  
Jewel Solomon  
Candy Roden  
Brian Gilchrist  
Lisa Scott

Kimberly Steele  
Sandi Lewis  
Glory Farms  
Phyllis Poston  
Jo Ann Moore  
Brad Moore  
Jordan Adams  
Geoff and Carol Schaff  
Heather Briehn Ortis  
Barbara Thompson  
Stacie Pace  
Simone Mark McDonald  
Dee Vaught  
Debbie McKay Purvis  
Dr. Cindy Brasfield  
Sally Mosley  
Carolyn Chapman  
Jeri Gregg  
Kathy Dukes

# USCT Division Trail

## Biological Assessment

Prepared using IPaC

Generated by Mike Bunn (director@blakeleypark.com)

August 11, 2022

The purpose of this Biological Assessment (BA) is to assess the effects of the proposed project and determine whether the project may affect any Federally threatened, endangered, proposed or candidate species. This BA is prepared in accordance with legal requirements set forth under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1536 (c)).

In this document, any data provided by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is based on data as of August 11, 2022.

Prepared using IPaC version 6.78.1-rc1

# USCT Division Trail Biological Assessment

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# 1 Description Of The Action

## 1.1 Project Name

USCT Division Trail

## 1.2 Executive Summary

This project will allow multi-use traffic--hiking, biking, and horseback riding--between two areas of our Civil War battlefield which are currently not connected by any trail.

Effect determination summary

## 1.3 Project Description

### 1.3.1 Location



LOCATION

Baldwin County, Alabama

### 1.3.2 Description of project habitat

Forested ravine

### 1.3.3 Project proponent information

*Provide information regarding who is proposing to conduct the project, and their contact information. Please provide details on whether there is a Federal nexus.*

**Requesting Agency**

State of Alabama

State of Alabama

FULL NAME

Mike Bunn

STREET ADDRESS

Historic Blakeley State Park

34745 State Highway 225

CITY

Spanish Fort

STATE

AL

ZIP

36527

PHONE NUMBER

2516260798

E-MAIL ADDRESS

director@blakeleypark.com

**Lead agency**

Lead agency is the same as requesting agency

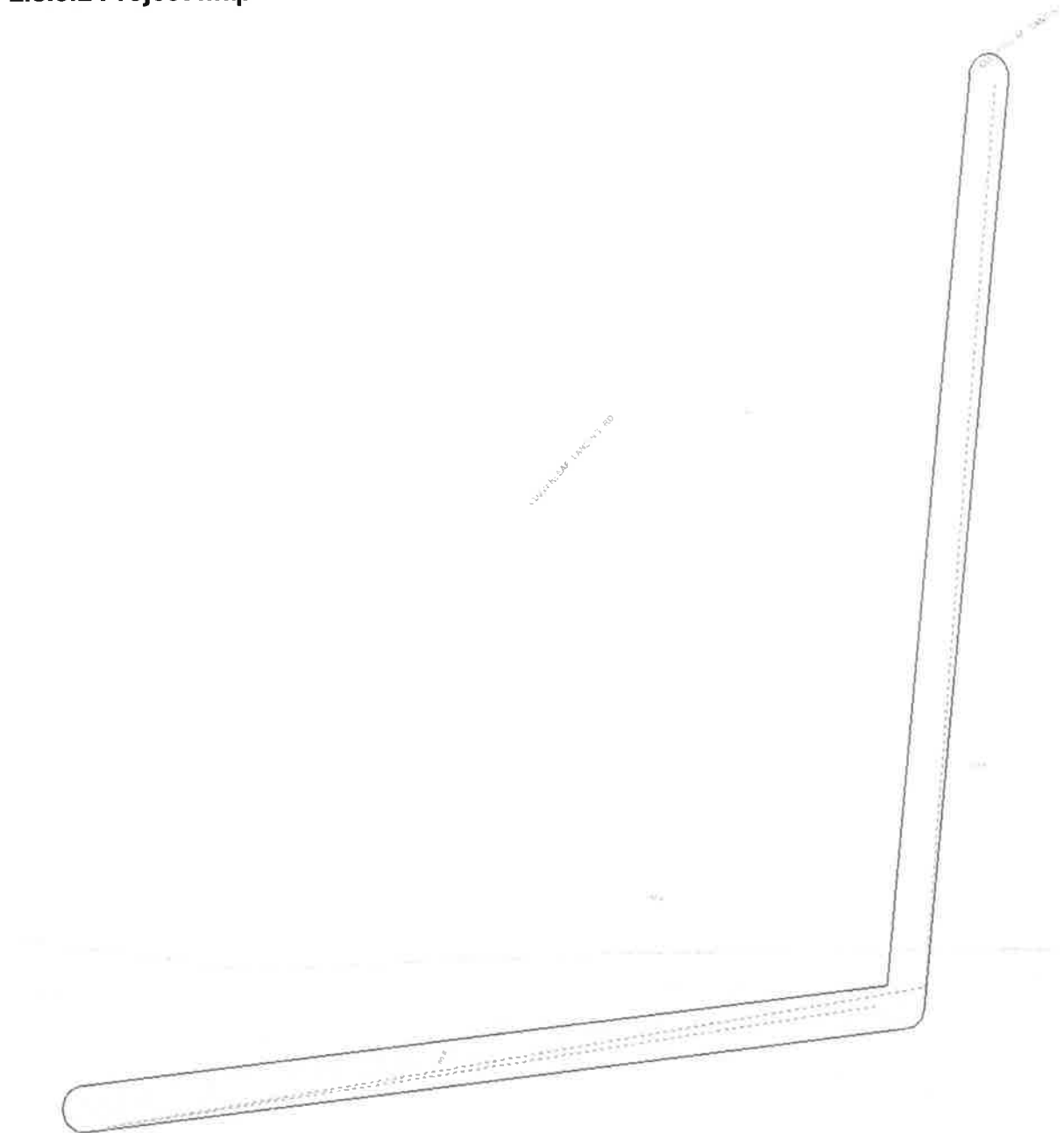
### 1.3.4 Project purpose

The proposed trail would link two major sections of Historic Blakeley State Park—a 2,000-acre facility in Baldwin County, Alabama which contains among its many natural and cultural heritage features the site of Alabama's largest Civil War battlefield. The park operates on lands owned by both the Historic Blakeley Authority and the Historic Blakeley Foundation. The trail would be critical in providing access to a nationally-significant trail system focused on interpreting the role of former slaves in the Civil War battle which took place on our grounds, known as the USCT Heritage Trail.

### 1.3.5 Project type and deconstruction

This project is a recreational trail construction project.

#### 1.3.5.1 Project map



LEGEND



Project footprint



Layer 1: Recreational trail, recreational trail (structure)

#### **1.3.5.2 recreational trail**

***Structure completion date***

February 01, 2023

***Removal/decommission date (if applicable)***

*Not applicable*

***Stressors***

This activity is not expected to have any impact on the environment.

***Description***

Clear trail connecting portions of battlefield

#### **1.3.5.3 recreational trail**

***Activity start date***

February 01, 2023

***Activity end date***

May 01, 2023

***Stressors***

This activity is not expected to have any impact on the environment.

***Description***

Ca. .7 mile trail connecting two portions of our Civil War battlefield

#### **1.3.6 Anticipated environmental stressors**

*Describe the anticipated effects of your proposed project on the aspects of the land, air and water that will occur due to the activities above. These should be based on the activity deconstructions done in the previous section and will be used to inform the action area.*

##### **1.3.6.1 Animal Features**

Individuals from the Animalia kingdom, such as raptors, mollusks, and fish. This feature also includes byproducts and remains of animals (e.g., carrion, feathers, scat, etc.), and animal-related structures (e.g., dens, nests, hibernacula, etc.).

#### **1.3.6.2 Plant Features**

Individuals from the Plantae kingdom, such as trees, shrubs, herbs, grasses, ferns, and mosses. This feature also includes products of plants (e.g., nectar, flowers, seeds, etc.).

#### **1.3.6.3 Aquatic Features**

Bodies of water on the landscape, such as streams, rivers, ponds, wetlands, etc., and their physical characteristics (e.g., depth, current, etc.). This feature includes the groundwater and its characteristics. Water quality attributes (e.g., turbidity, pH, temperature, DO, nutrients, etc.) should be placed in the Environmental Quality Features.

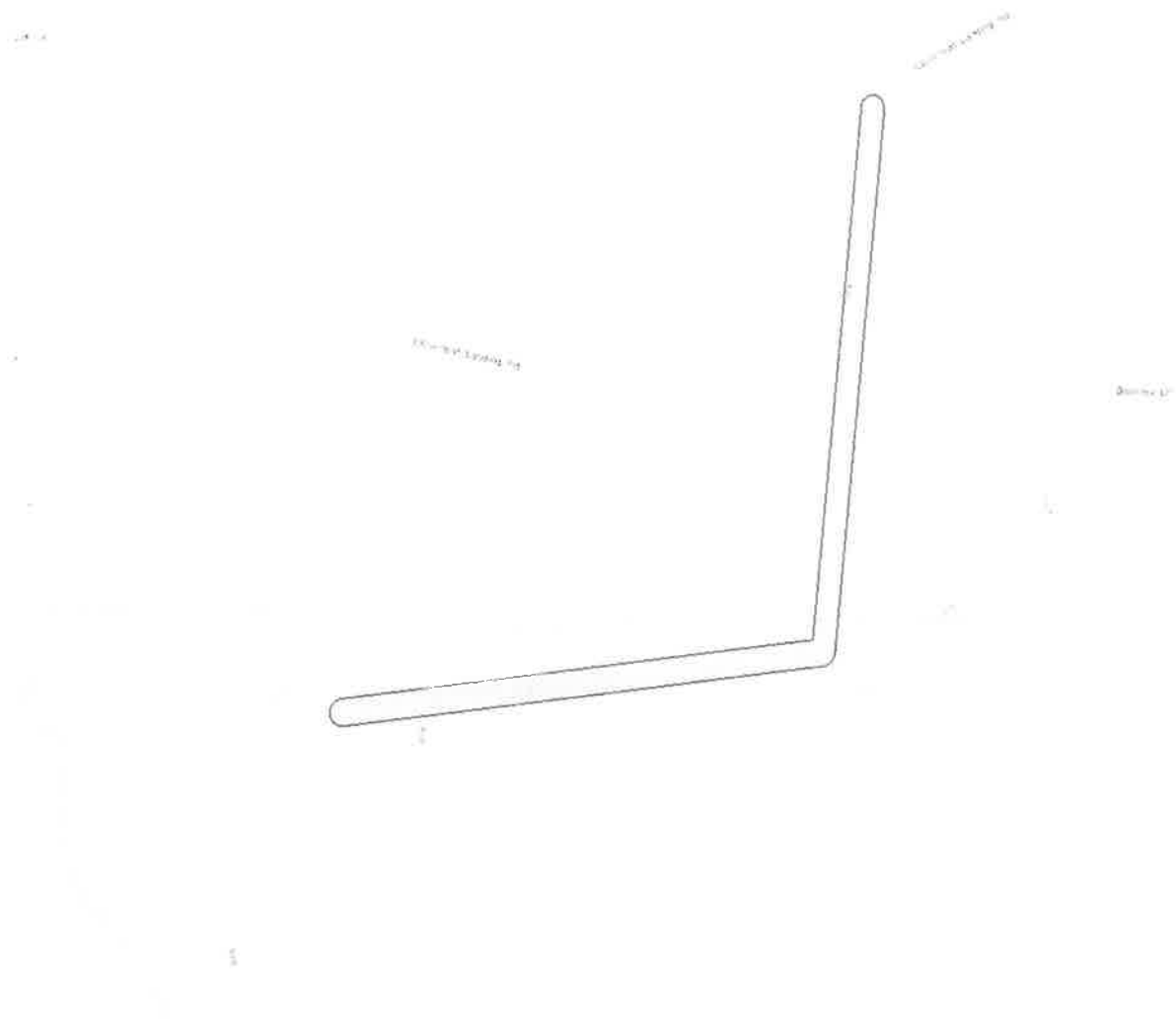
#### **1.3.6.4 Environmental Quality Features**

Abiotic attributes of the landscape (e.g., temperature, moisture, slope, aspect, etc.).

#### **1.3.6.5 Landform (topographic) Features**

Topographic (landform) features that typically occur naturally on the landscape (e.g., cliffs, terraces, ridges, etc.). This feature does not include aquatic landscape features or man-made structures.

## 1.4 Action Area



## **1.5 Conservation Measures**

*Describe any proposed measures being implemented as part of the project that are designed to reduce the impacts to the environment and their resulting effects to listed species. To avoid extra verbiage, don't list measures that have no relevance to the species being analyzed.*

*No conservation measures have been selected for this project.*

## **1.6 Prior Consultation History**

None to my knowledge

## **1.7 Other Agency Partners And Interested Parties**

We are seeking funding from the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs.

## **1.8 Other Reports And Helpful Information**

### ***Relevant documentation***

- HBSP ADECA grant project area maps and images



## **2 Species Effects Analysis**

*This section describes, species by species, the effects of the proposed action on listed, proposed, and candidate species, and the habitat on which they depend. In this document, effects are broken down as direct interactions (something happening directly to the species) or indirect interactions (something happening to the environment on which a species depends that could then result in effects to the species).*

*These interactions encompass effects that occur both during project construction and those which could be ongoing after the project is finished. All effects, however, should be considered, including effects from direct and indirect interactions and cumulative effects.*

### **2.1 Alabama Red-Bellied Turtle**

*This species has been excluded from analysis in this environmental review document.*

#### **Justification for exclusion**

Not affected

### **2.2 Eastern Black Rail**

*This species has been excluded from analysis in this environmental review document.*

#### **Justification for exclusion**

Not present

### **2.3 Eastern Indigo Snake**

*This species has been excluded from analysis in this environmental review document.*

#### **Justification for exclusion**

Not present

## **2.4 Gulf Sturgeon**

***This species has been excluded from analysis in this environmental review document.***

### **Justification for exclusion**

Not present

## **2.5 Monarch Butterfly**

***This species has been excluded from analysis in this environmental review document.***

### **Justification for exclusion**

Unaffected

## **2.6 West Indian Manatee**

***This species has been excluded from analysis in this environmental review document.***

### **Justification for exclusion**

Not present

## **2.7 Wood Stork**

***This species has been excluded from analysis in this environmental review document.***

### **Justification for exclusion**

Not present

### **3 Critical Habitat Effects Analysis**

*No critical habitats intersect with the project action area.*

## 4 Summary Discussion, Conclusion, And Effect Determinations

### 4.1 Effect Determination Summary

SPECIES (COMMON NAME)	SCIENTIFIC NAME	LISTING STATUS	PRESENT IN ACTION AREA	EFFECT DETERMINATION
<u>Alabama Red-bellied Turtle</u>	Pseudemys alabamensis	Endangered	No	NE
<u>Eastern Black Rail</u>	Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis	Threatened	No	NE
<u>Eastern Indigo Snake</u>	Drymarchon couperi	Threatened	No	NE
<u>Gulf Sturgeon</u>	Acipenser oxyrinchus (=oxyrhynchus) desotoi	Threatened	No	NE
<u>Monarch Butterfly</u>	Danaus plexippus	Candidate	Excluded from analysis	Excluded from analysis
<u>West Indian Manatee</u>	Trichechus manatus	Threatened	No	NE
<u>Wood Stork</u>	Mycteria americana	Threatened	No	NE

### 4.2 Summary Discussion

No effect

### 4.3 Conclusion

This trail will traverse a ravine by following the natural terrain and only brush and a few trees will have to be removed. It will have a natural surface, and only have rock or asphalt millings added in areas where erosion may occur.



468 S. Perry Street  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900  
Voice: (334)242-3184  
Fax: (334)262-1083  
[www.ahc.alabama.gov](http://www.ahc.alabama.gov)

To: Section 106 Professionals  
From: Amanda McBride, Section 106 Coordinator  
Date: October 21, 2020  
Re: **Digital Section 106 Project Submissions**

The Alabama Historical Commission is pleased to announce that we now accept digital Section 106 submissions. We no longer accept hard copies of Section 106 information.

### **Submit files via e-mail**

- To send files via e-mail, please use the following e-mail address: [Section.106@ahc.alabama.gov](mailto:Section.106@ahc.alabama.gov). Section 106 files sent to any other email address, including individual AHC addresses, will not be accepted and will not be considered "received" for Section 106 review.
- Attachments must be limited to 19MB. Attachments for all first submissions should include a completed Project Review Consultation Form (available on our website at the link below) and all requested information, even if the submission is a cultural resources assessment report.
- A completed Project Review Consultation Form (PRC form) found at the link below must be included with your submission.

*Disclaimer: Digital submissions will receive an emailed acknowledgement of receipt when received and initially processed by our office, which will include the assigned AHC review number. As per the guidelines of 36 CFR Part 800, the 30-calendar-day review period will begin when the acknowledgement of receipt is sent by our office. If you do not receive an acknowledgement of receipt within 2-business-days (not including weekends or state holidays) of electronic submittal, it is the submitting agency's responsibility to confirm receipt of the Section 106 consultation request. AHC will not be responsible for time delays caused by SPAM filter or Antivirus quarantine.*

### **Important Information**

Please limit document content to information that is directly relevant to cultural resources review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The Project Review Consultation Form is on our website at:

[https://ahc.alabama.gov/section106PDFs/Project\\_Review\\_Consultation\\_Form\\_revised\\_February\\_2018.pdf](https://ahc.alabama.gov/section106PDFs/Project_Review_Consultation_Form_revised_February_2018.pdf).

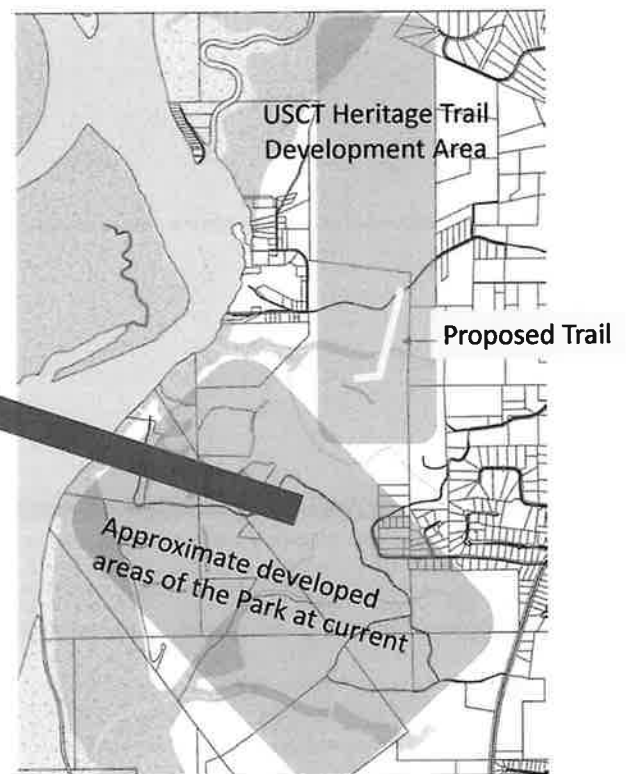
Please follow the instructions on the form and include all requested information. If information is missing, the form will be returned.

~continued on next page~

Please name your files so that they can be easily identified. If you know the AHC tracking number, be sure to use that in the file name. Please be as specific as you can. For example, rather than naming a file or set of files "Section 106 documents" or "Archaeology Report," instead use "Demolition of 1234 Main Street, Jefferson County" or "Cultural Resources Assessment Report for Johnson Materials Pit, AHC 2020-0999." Use [Section.106@ahc.alabama.gov](mailto:Section.106@ahc.alabama.gov) for official documents submitted for Section 106 review that will be included in the project file. All other inquiries should be directed to individual e-mail addresses, such as [Amanda.McBride@ahc.alabama.gov](mailto:Amanda.McBride@ahc.alabama.gov).

Contact Amanda McBride at [Amanda.McBride@ahc.alabama.gov](mailto:Amanda.McBride@ahc.alabama.gov) or 334.230.2692 with questions.



[illegible]









West end of ravine trail will cross

Battlefield Road

"Battlefield" Area of the park

Existing trail entrance

Confederate Redoubt 4

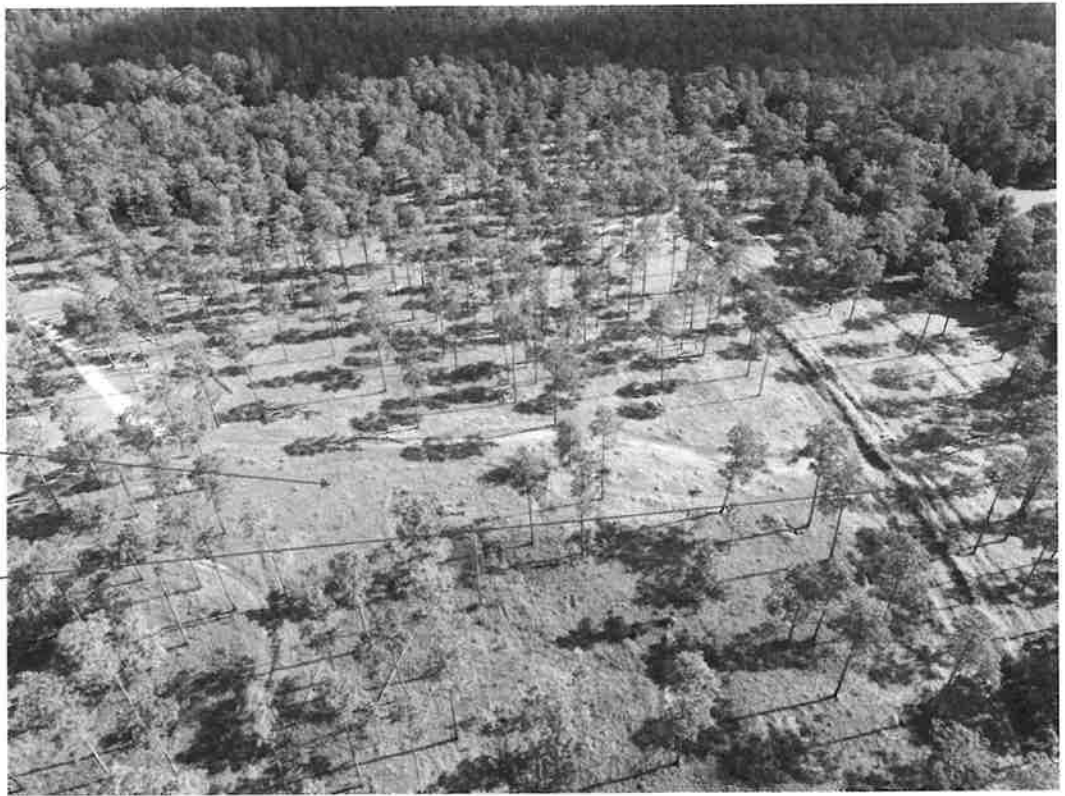


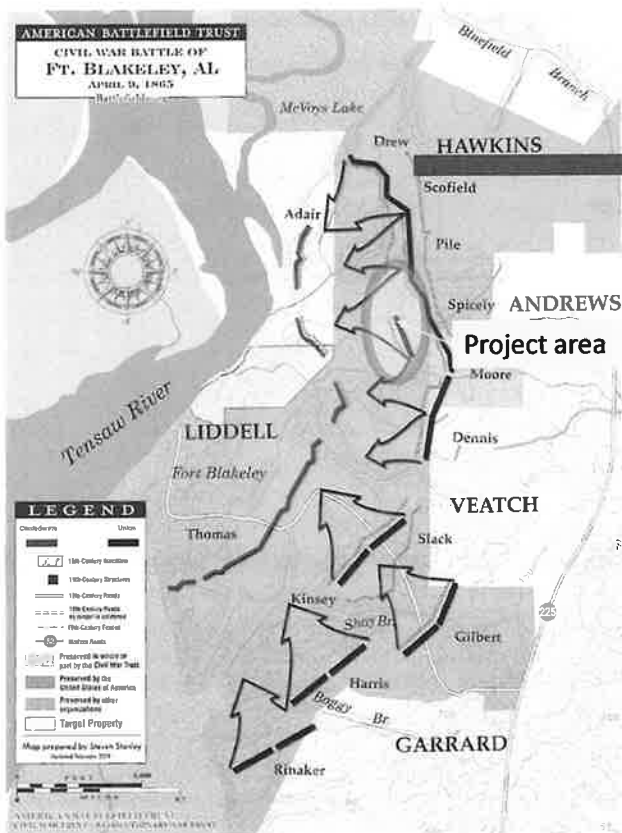
Proposed trail would run north to USCT Heritage Trail area approximately half mile north to Cloverleaf Landing Road (not visible in this image)

Battlefield area

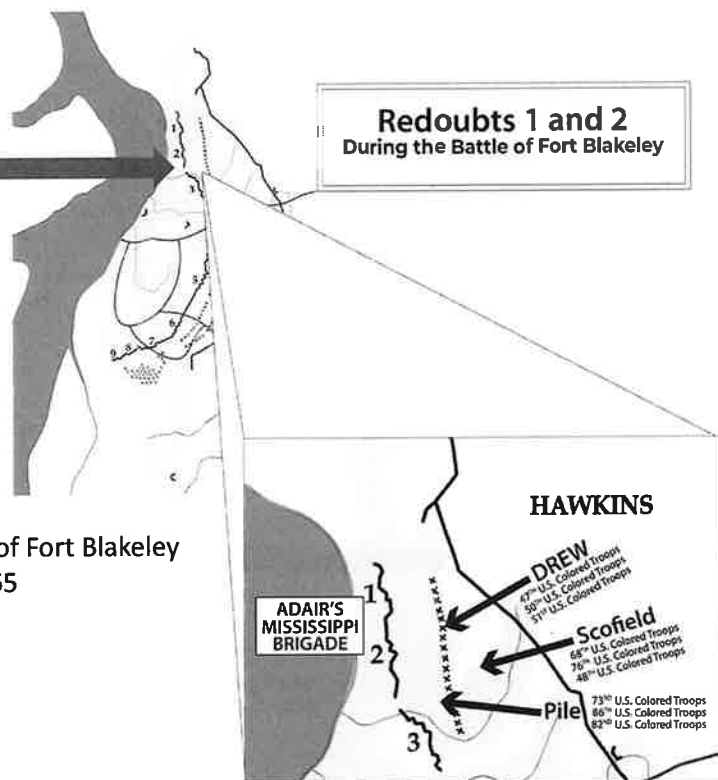
Federal Third Parallel which ends on edge of ravine

To Redoubt 4 and Trailhead

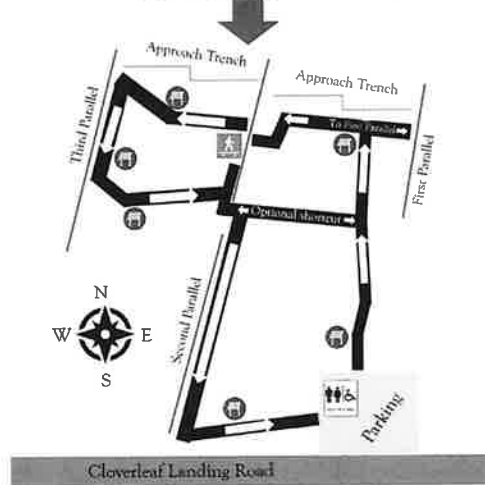




The Battle of Fort Blakeley  
 April 9, 1865



# New USCT Heritage Trail Project



Hwy. 225



Typical park trail of the type we plan to create



Type of bridge to installed



Vault restroom of the type to  
be placed at trailhead





ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
**SECTION 106 PROJECT REVIEW CONSULTATION FORM**

Federal laws exist to ensure that federal agencies or their designated applicants carefully consider historic preservation in federally funded, licensed, or permitted projects. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended directs this review. <http://www.achp.gov/106summary.html>. At a minimum, submission of this completed form and attachments constitutes a request for review by the Alabama Historical Commission, which is the Alabama State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). **The responsibility for preparing documentation, including the identification of archaeological and architectural properties and the assessment of potential effects resulting from the project, rests with the federal or state agency, or its designated applicant.** The role of the Alabama SHPO is to review, comment, and consult with federal/state agencies or their designees. The Alabama SHPO's ability to complete a timely project review largely depends on the quality of the material submitted. Some applicants may find it advantageous to hire a professional consultant with expertise in archaeology, history and/or architectural history.

PROJECT NAME

USCT Division Battlefield Trail

FEDERAL AGENCY PROVIDING FUNDS, LICENSE, OR PERMIT

FEDERAL PROJECT NUMBER

FEDERAL AGENCY CONTACT NAME AND E-MAIL/PHONE NUMBER

STATE AGENCY PROVIDING FUNDS, LICENSE, OR PERMIT (IF APPLICABLE)

ADECA

STATE AGENCY CONTACT NAME AND E-MAIL ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, MAILING ADDRESS

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs Attn: LaToya Edwards, Recreation and Conservation Programs Spec

AHC NUMBER (If project has been previously submitted)

APPLICANT NAME:

Historic Blakeley State Park

APPLICANT MAILING ADDRESS:

34745 State Highway 225 Spanish Fort, AL 36527

APPLICANT TELEPHONE:

251-626-0798

APPLICANT EMAIL:

director@blakeleypark.com

CONTACT NAME (if different than applicant):

Mike Bunn

CONTACT MAILING ADDRESS:

34745 State Highway 225 Spanish Fort, AL 36527

CONTACT TELEPHONE:

251-626-0798

CONTACT EMAIL (Person to whom AHC should email response letter):

director@blakeleypark.com

CONTRACTOR TYPE: ☐ ARCHAEOLOGIST; ☐ ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN; ☐ NONE; ☒ OTHER: state park

CONTRACTOR NAME:

Historic Blakeley State Park

CONTRACTOR MAILING ADDRESS:

34745 State Highway 225 Spanish Fort, AL 36527

CONTRACTOR TELEPHONE:

251-626-0798

CONTRACTOR EMAIL:

director@blakeleypark.com

<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	
STREET ADDRESS 34745 State Highway 225	CITY Spanish Fort
COUNTY Baldwin	ZIP CODE 36527
LATITUDE / LONGITUDE: USE DECIMAL DEGREES EXAMPLE: 32.3722N, -86.3083W 30.749824, -87.910829 (entrance) 30.755780 -87.9048	
<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION</b>	
Will the project involve any of the following? Check all that apply.	
<input type="checkbox"/> exterior rehabilitation work; <input type="checkbox"/> interior rehabilitation work; <input type="checkbox"/> cellular equipment located on buildings; <input type="checkbox"/> streetscapes/sidewalks/lighting; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> new construction; and/or <input type="checkbox"/> demolition	
Describe the overall project in DETAIL. Be sure to describe any items checked above. Use additional pages if necessary.	
<p>The proposed trail would link two major sections of Historic Blakeley State Park—a 2,000-acre facility in Baldwin County, Alabama which contains among its many natural and cultural heritage features the site of Alabama's largest Civil War battlefield. The park operates on lands owned by both the Historic Blakeley Authority and the Historic Blakeley Foundation. The trail would be critical in providing access to a nationally-significant trail system focused on interpreting the role of former slaves in the Civil War battle which took place on our grounds, known as the USCT Heritage Trail. We believe it to be the only such distinct trail system of any Civil War battlefield in the nation. This project is being created on Foundation-owned land adjacent to the developed areas of the park but currently not integrated into its existed ca. 25-miles of trails.</p> <p>The trail would connect the "battlefield" area of the park where reenactments and living history events are held with the new "USCT Heritage Trail" being developed by the park to the north. A wooded ravine through which runs a small stream stands between these two project areas. Part of this area is already serviced by a walking trail which runs along the southern edge of the remains of an old beaver pond. We would cut a new hiking/biking/pedestrian trail to continue this trail system, going down one side of the ravine in an area where the descent is most shallow, and connecting to a similar area on the opposite side so that the incline is as shallow as possible. A skid-steer mulcher would be used to remove brush at the trail entrance, but any trees requiring removal would be hand-cut; our goal is to cut as few trees as necessary and none if at all possible along the trail. We will, however, have to remove a few small trees at the edge of the existing battlefield car/bus parking lot adjacent to Battlefield Road (which shows up incorrectly on google maps as "Blakeley Road") in order to place a 2-stall restroom facility at the trailhead for the convenience of guests. Dr. Gregory Waselkov, an Historic Blakeley Authority board member and former director of the University of South Alabama's Center for Archaeological Studies, will assist in arranging for a thorough survey of the affected area associated with the placement of this facility.</p> <p>We want the trail to run along but not cross one of the parallels of Federal earthworks dug during the siege of Fort Blakeley. The parallel is not continuous throughout the ravine, and stops at the brow of either side of the ravine. Nevertheless, we would construct our trail to remain a safe distance from where any earthworks would have been if the line had been continued through the stream bottom. The only construction required would be the placement of a small foot bridge allowing users to traverse the small stream at the bottom of the ravine. As we have with other similar wooden bridges in the park, we would not sink posts to create the structure. It would lie on a bed of railroad ties, feature marine-grade lumber decking, be installed with no digging, and sit at an elevation of just 1-2 feet over the stream. We will likely have to bring in a small amount of asphalt millings to smooth the approaches to the bridge. In a similar manner, we might need to place loose millings, gravel, or dirt in any area of the trail which is particularly unlevel so that the path on the natural terrain is as smooth as possible.</p>	

**AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT (APE)**

The APE varies with project types and can be direct or indirect (physical, visual, auditory, etc.). The APE is defined as "the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may cause changes in the character of use of historic properties, if any such properties exist." Factors to consider when determining the APE include; topography, vegetation, existing development, orientation of an existing resource to the project, physical siting of a resource, and existing and planned future development. For example:

- 1) Rehabilitation, renovation, and/or demolition of a historic building or structure, or new construction: the APE might include the building itself and the adjacent setting.
- 2) Streetscapes: the APE might include the viewshed from the street.
- 3) Pedestrian/bicycle facilities: the APE might extend the length of the corridor and for some distance on both sides of the corridor.
- 4) Underground utilities: the APE would usually be limited to the area of ground disturbance.

Attach a map indicating the precise location of the project and the boundaries of the APE, preferably a clear color copy of a USGS topographic quadrangle map (7.5 minute). For projects in urban areas, also include a city map that shows more detail. USGS topographic maps can be printed from this website: <https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/viewer/>. City maps can be printed using [www.google.com/maps](http://www.google.com/maps).

Provide current, high resolution color photographs that illustrate the project area and the entire APE as defined above.

**ARCHAEOLOGY (Ground Disturbing Activities)**

Has the ground in the project area been disturbed other than by agriculture (i.e. grading, grubbing, clear cutting, filling, etc.)?

☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't know ☐ N/A

If yes, describe in detail. Use additional pages as necessary. Photographs are helpful.

Describe the present use and condition of the property. Use additional pages as necessary.

Wooded stream bottom

To your knowledge, has a Cultural Resource Assessment (CRA) been conducted in the proposed project area?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Don't know ☐ N/A

If yes, attach a copy of the cultural resources assessment report.

## ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

Above-ground properties within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) should be evaluated for the eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. It is the federal agency's (or their designee) responsibility to identify properties in the APE, apply the National Register (NR) criteria, and determine whether a property is eligible or not. Those determinations are sent to our office for review and comment. All properties evaluated should be accompanied by current photographs, and these locations should be keyed to a good quality USGS topographic map. Some applicants may find it advantageous to hire a historic preservation professional with expertise in history and/or architectural history to complete the identification and evaluation of historic properties. The Alabama Historical Commission publishes a GIS map of properties that have been documented by or through our office. The map includes properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places, Alabama Register of Landmarks & Heritage, Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, county architectural surveys, and other files. The GIS map can be accessed here: <https://ahc.alabama.gov/historicpreservationmap.aspx> The GIS map should function as a research tool, not an up-to-the-minute inventory about every historic and/or architecturally significant property in the state. This tool allows researchers to investigate and review potentially significant properties according to the best data that is available in the Alabama Historical Commission's files. The absence of a property from the map does not imply that an unidentified property lacks historic or architectural importance.

1) Within the APE, are there properties listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places?

☐ YES If yes, identify the properties by name, address, and photo number.

☒ NO If no, identify the properties by name, address, and photo number. Provide an explanation as to why properties identified are not eligible for the National Register. A discussion of the National Register seven aspects of integrity and the applicable National Register criteria must be included. Refer to the National Park Service's website: [https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/upload/NRB-15\\_web508.pdf](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/upload/NRB-15_web508.pdf) Use additional pages as necessary.

## EFFECTS DETERMINATION

An effect occurs when an action alters the characteristics of a property that may qualify it for the National Register of Historic Places. How will this project affect any of the properties identified in the previous section? Will the project take away or change anything within the boundaries of a historic property? Will the project change the view from or the view to any historic properties? Will the project introduce any audible or atmospheric elements? Will the project result in the transfer, lease, or sale of any of the identified properties? Use additional sheets as necessary.

The project will not impact any cultural heritage resources and will not change the view of the area. It will only allow greater public access to two important sections of the park's Civil War battlefield. The only portion of the project involving digging will be the potential placement of a restroom, but this will not be done until after a survey of the selected site is performed.

**CHECKLIST: Did you provide the following information?**☒ Completed form.☒ Photographs\* of current site conditions and all identified historic properties keyed to a site map.☒ Maps with project area, APE, and any historic properties marked and identified.☒ For new construction, rehabilitations, etc., attach work plans, drawings, etc.☒ Other supporting documents (if necessary to explain the project).☒ Description of present use and condition of the project area.

\*A note about photographs: Digital photos must be current, high resolution, and adequately show the resource. Take photographs of the overall property and the exterior of each building on the property, including outbuildings. Include views of the overall setting, views of the building in its immediate surrounding showing the relationship of the building to neighboring buildings, and views of significant landscape features (i.e. tree lined approaches, stone walls, formal gardens, etc.). Exterior views of the building should include full views of each side (if possible) and views of important architectural details. Key all photographs to a site map.

If the project involves rehabilitation, include photographs of the building(s) involved and especially the areas of the building slated for rehab work. Label each exterior view to a site map and label all interior views. If the project involves new construction, include photographs of the surrounding area looking out from the project site. Include photographs of any buildings that are located on the project property or on adjoining property.

**NOTE: Section 106 regulations provide for a 30-day response time by the Alabama SHPO from the date of receipt. Project activities may not begin until our office has reviewed this information and issued comments.**

**Upon receipt, applications and attachments become the property of the State of Alabama.**

For questions regarding this form or the Section 106 Review Process, contact Amanda McBride,  
Section 106 Coordinator, at 334.230.2692 or [Amanda.McBride@ahc.alabama.gov](mailto:Amanda.McBride@ahc.alabama.gov).

**All projects must be submitted digitally**

E-mail this form and supporting documents to [Section.106@ahc.alabama.gov](mailto:Section.106@ahc.alabama.gov). This is the only approved e-mail address for project submission. Projects sent to any other e-mail address will not be accepted. The attachment size cannot exceed 19 MB. Alternatively, you may submit projects with larger attachments through an online system to be determined by the AHC.

Please limit your submission to cultural resources information only.

**Contact Amanda McBride for any questions on digital submissions**



August 10, 2022

Chief, Regulatory Division  
Mobile District Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 2288  
Mobile, AL 36628-0001

To Whom It May Concern,

Historic Blakeley State Park seeks Corps concurrence on a planned multi-use trail is seeks funding for from the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs recreational trails grant program.

The proposed trail would link two major sections of Historic Blakeley State Park—a 2,000-acre facility in Baldwin County, Alabama which contains among its many natural and cultural heritage features the site of Alabama's largest Civil War battlefield. The park operates on lands owned by both the Historic Blakeley Authority and the Historic Blakeley Foundation. The trail would be critical in providing access to a nationally-significant trail system focused on interpreting the role of former slaves in the Civil War battle which took place on our grounds, known as the USCT Heritage Trail. We believe it to be the only such distinct trail system of any Civil War battlefield in the nation. This project is being created on Foundation-owned land adjacent to the developed areas of the park but currently not integrated into its existed ca. 25-miles of trails.

The trail would connect the "battlefield" area of the park where reenactments and living history events are held with the new "USCT Heritage Trail" being developed by the park to the north. A wooded ravine through which runs a small stream stands between these two project areas. Part of this area is already serviced by a walking trail which runs along the southern edge of the remains of an old beaver pond. We would cut a new hiking/biking/pedestrian trail to continue this trail system, going down one side of the ravine in an area where the descent is most shallow, and connecting to a similar area on the opposite side so that the incline is as shallow as possible. A skid-steer mulcher would be used to remove brush at the trail entrance, but any trees requiring removal would be hand-cut; our goal is to cut as few trees as necessary and none if at all possible along the trail. We will, however, have to remove a few small trees at the edge of the existing battlefield car/bus parking lot adjacent to Battlefield Road (which shows up incorrectly on



google maps as "Blakeley Road") in order to place a 2-stall restroom facility at the trailhead for the convenience of guests. Dr. Gregory Waselkov, an Historic Blakeley Authority board member and former director of the University of South Alabama's Center for Archaeological Studies, will assist in arranging for a thorough survey of the affected area associated with the placement of this facility.

We want the trail to run along but not cross one of the parallels of Federal earthworks dug during the siege of Fort Blakeley. The parallel is not continuous throughout the ravine, and stops at the brow of either side of the ravine. Nevertheless, we would construct our trail to remain a safe distance from where any earthworks would have been if the line had been continued through the stream bottom. The only construction required would be the placement of a small foot bridge allowing users to traverse the small stream at the bottom of the ravine. We will likely have to bring in a small amount of asphalt millings to smooth the approaches to the bridge. In a similar manner, we might need to place loose millings, gravel, or dirt in any area of the trail which is particularly unlevel so that the path on the natural terrain is as smooth as possible.

The project will not impact any cultural heritage resources and will not change the view of the area. It will only allow greater public access to two important sections of the park's Civil War battlefield. The only portion of the project involving digging will be the potential placement of a restroom, but this will not be done until after a survey of the selected site is performed.

**Please see attached maps and images illustrating the location of the project, the proposed route, and what we are trying to create for the public.**

Respectfully,

Mike Bunn  
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